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Derek Sprawson: Hy-phen

Paintings – Drawings – Objects

By (artist) Derek Sprawson

Contributions by Richard Davey

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Hy-phen: Paintings – Drawings – Objects is the definitive monograph on the work of British artist Derek Sprawson (b. 1955), bringing together more than four decades of one of the most singular and sustained practices in contemporary British painting. The publication traces the evolution of an artist whose work has consistently challenged the boundaries between painting, drawing and sculpture. Drawing inspiration from the landscapes of Italy and the expansive flatlands of Norfolk, Sprawson's large-scale paintings of the 1980s and early 1990s transformed the experience of landscape into a bold and original abstract language. During his time at Nottingham Trent University, Sprawson curated and hosted emerging and leading figures in contemporary painting such as Ian McKeever, Marlene Dumas, Chris Ofili, David Batchelor, Frank Stella and Jules Olitski.

Derek Sprawson – Artist and lecturer, born in Liverpool, who studied fine art at the Polytechnic there; graduated from Newport College of Art; and gained his master's at Reading University. Lived in Nottingham, where he was senior lecturer in fine art at The Nottingham Trent University. Sprawson gained three project awards from East Midlands Arts Board, 1985–92, in 1995 winning a drawing first prize, Biennial International for Sculpture and Drawing, Caldas da Rainha, Portugal. Later group shows included Michael Schultz Gallery, Berlin, 1991; Palace of Culture, Poznań, 1992; 7th Oriel Mostyn Open Exhibition, Llandudno, 1995–6; and winter show, Bernard Jacobson Gallery, 1996–7. At this time Sprawson was exhibiting paintings of simple shapes on grounds using muted colours, a contrast to earlier work which was densely layered and complex, and employed a rich palette.







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